GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:227
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007
VISIT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER TO BANGLADESH
Barad Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai;Prabhu Shri Suresh Prabhakar

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he recently visited Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held during his visit;

(c) whether the issue regarding cross border terrorism had also been discussed; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (d) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 227 REGARDING 'VISIT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER TO BANGLADESH' FOR ANSWER ON 14.03.2007

a) Yes, Sir. EAM visited Dhaka on February 19, 2007.

b) During the visit, the External Affairs Minister paid a courtesy call on the President of Bangladesh, Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed and extended an invitation to Bangladesh to participate in the 14th SAARC Summit to be held in New Delhi from April 3-4, 2007. He also had detailed discussions with the Chief Adviser of the Caretaker Government, Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed and Foreign Adviser, Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury. The discussions centered on bilateral relations and the forthcoming SAARC Summit. In the context of bilateral relations, both sides agreed to take steps to place bilateral relations on an "irreversible higher trajectory". The discussions on SAARC focused on ensuring the success of the forthcoming SAARC Summit and early & full implementation of SAFTA.

c) Yes, Sir.

d) Both sides have agreed to jointly combat terrorism, which today poses a grave challenge to our society and threatens the economic development of both countries. The Caretaker Government assured us that they would not allow Bangladeshi soil to be used for activities inimical to India.